inadequacies relating to strengthening of social infrastructure, filling up of critical gaps in road network etc. are taken up under the programme. These are chosen and executed by the concerned State Government.

During the year 2003-04, a sum of Rs. 13.51 crores has been allocated to Arunachal Pradesh for the development of Border areas, including Tawang District, under the Border Area Development Programme.

Growing clout of terrorists in Manipur

†1623. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAS and other officers in North-Eastern State of Manipur have surrendered before the so-called courts run by the terrorists;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether this kind of action by the officers reflects the growing clout of terrorists;

(d) if so, the steps are being taken by Government to provide security and relief to the Government officials and masses against the fear of the terrorists; and

(e) whether Government propose to make efforts to bring these terrorists into the mainstream of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) to (c) There have been some isolated instances wherein militants have been coercing the general public and State Government officials to obey their dictates. The Government of Manipur has been advised to strengthen the security to prevent recurrence of such instances.

(d) Central Government has been providing assistance to North Eastern States which *inter alia* includes deployment of Army and Central Paramilitary Forces, coordinated action by security forces for counter insurgency operations, modernization/upgradation of State Police Forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure and declaration of militant organizations as 'unlawful associations'.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) Government has extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks within the provisions of the Constitution.

Talks with Naga rebels

1624. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Kohima in October last held talks with various groups of Naga rebels;

(b) if so, the names of the leaders and the specific Naga factions which they represent, who took part in the deliberations; and

(c) whether any specific issues were discussed during the talks and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Observations of Director, CBl at the Interpol General Assembly

1625. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by Director, CBl, in Interpol General Assembly, that corrosive activities of international criminals in the Post-Cold War year threaten all regions and nations alike and that technological advancement and globalization coupled with availability of financial and legal expertise have enabled organized crime groups to diversity their activities; and

(b) if so, in this scenario, whether Government are adequately equipped in apprehending the criminals, investigating the crimes and ultimately securing deterrent punishment to them and what is the conviction rate of such criminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation, Shri P.C. Sharma, the then Director, CBl